**Island of the Blue Dolphins and Hatchet**

In class we read Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O’ Dell and Hatchet by Gary Paulsen. There are a number of similarities between the two books. One of them is that Brian (Hatchet) and Karana (Island of the Blue Dolphins) have never been in that kind of situation before. Brian lived in New York City with his mom and dad until they got a divorce. Wanting to be close to his son yet far enough away from his ex-wife, his father moved to Northern Canada. Brian, on his way to his dad’s house his pilot had a heart attack and died right before his eyes. Brian had to land the plane in a secluded part of the Canadian wilderness. How was a city boy like Brian supposed to survive in a place he had never been, and in a situation he had never faced before? Karana was a Native American living on an island with all her people. One day an Aleut ship came and killed some of the otter to eat. They stayed for about one or two weeks and at the end of their stay they were going to trade for the otter. Chief Chowig a.k.a Karana’s father said there were not as many jewels as thy promised. It led to something like a war and many people died. After they got a new chief and he sailed off to get a ship to come take them to another island. When the ship came everyone was aboard, except for Ramo, Karana’s little brother. Karana jumped off the ship to be with her brother. Wild dogs killed Ramo shortly after that so Karana was alone. Both Brian and Karana had never been in that kind of situation before. They learned to rely on themselves. Brian always had his parents to rely on, whether it is his mom or his dad. Karana had all of her people surrounding her day by day, all of her relatives, her mom, dad, grandma etc. Also they thought about their parents a lot. In some ways that kept them going. Brian thought that if he kept thinking about his mom and dad he would get to see them soon. Karana thought about her sister Ulape because both of her parents are dead. We can never forget their animal problems. With Karana she had the wild dogs. Some days they liked her, some days they were kind of friendly, and some days she would steer clear of them. With Brian it was the moose. That dreaded moose just kept pushing Brian underwater again, and again. Between the two books I found a lot of differences.

There were many similarities but also some differences between the two books. One was that they were in different climates, one being warm and the other being cold most of the year. Different climates means different resources. Also, Karana knew the land and Brian didn’t. She had an advantage. She knew what to eat and where to find it. Brian did not. There is a big time difference. Hatchet takes place in the late 1900’s and Island of the Blue Dolphins takes place back when you had to travel by boat. Somewhere around the early 1800’s. So Brian could be rescued with technology and radar, but Karana had to be rescued by boat and the only people that knew she was there didn’t look like they were coming back. Brian could make weapons without feeling guilty but Karana felt very guilty because it was against her tribe for women to make weapons. Those are only some of the differences between the two books.

The themes of these books are very important in life. One theme is that they are learning to act alone. Learning to do things by themselves. I think that during these books they both grew up a little. Another theme is bravery. Both Karana and Brian showed a lot more bravery than I have. I would have been so scared if I was in their position. There is also courage. Brian learned to trust himself. Karana always knew how to trust herself but I think she learned how to even more. Also one of the more obvious themes is survival. These books were all about survival. In order to survive you need bravery, courage, and wits. Both Karana and Brian showed both of these traits. I think these books are more different than the same.